FDI in retail sector

666. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Government propsoe to introduce the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill but at the same time rendering crores of small time shopkeepers and vendors jobless all over the country through the move on FDI in retail sector;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

(c) whether any corrective steps are being considered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Currently Foreign Direct Investment in retail trading is not permitted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pension cases pending in SBI

667. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terminal benefits/family pension payment cases pending in State Bank of India and the normal time taken to release these benefits;

(b) whether it is a fact that many pension related cases are pending due to acute shortage of staff in State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Hyderabad, forcing thereby the families of the deceased employees/officers to beg;and

(c) what immediate steps the Ministry would take to release these benefits to the families of the deceased employees/officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.